

# NAMBLA Cleared in Senate Report

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*Critics target Dukakis' exclusion from suit, DSS' right to ask about sexual preference*

## Plaintiffs Rejoice over Foster Care Decision

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — "I partied all weekend," exclaimed Donald Babets, one of the victors in last week's court decision upholding the suit against the anti-gay foster care policy established by the Department of Social Services (DSS) under Governor Michael Dukakis.

Babets, who along with his lover David Jean is among the plaintiffs in the case, joins activists across the state in applauding the ruling by Thomas Morse, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. Morse's decision not only ruled that the case against the state may continue, but also strongly criticized the DSS policy of preventing lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents. (See box this page.)

While the ruling is clearly a set-

back to the state, which had filed a motion to dismiss the suit against DSS and Gov. Dukakis, Morse did rule that plaintiffs must modify their case in three areas in order to proceed:

- Dukakis cannot be named as a defendant;
- The court case cannot contest DSS's policy of asking potential foster parents the nature of their sexual preference on an application form;
- The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), one of the plaintiffs named in the suit, cannot continue as a plaintiff because it has no legal standing in the case.

Lesbian and gay activists involved in the case generally concur that the portions of the suit

dismissed by Morse do not constitute a major loss. Lawyers for the plaintiffs assert that these omissions will not affect the final outcome.

The lawyer for the state, Donald Stern, told GCN he would not address specifics of the ruling. "I don't want to make my case in the newspapers." He did express confidence that "as the facts fully develop the [final] ruling will say that the department regulations serve the best interests of children."

Jim Dorsey, press secretary for Dukakis, did not return GCN's calls. Mary Breslauer, spokesperson for Human Services Secretary Philip Johnston, who is specifically named in the case, said she could not comment on Morse's decision.

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### Excerpts from Judge Morse's Memorandum

"Given that the Commonwealth's 'legitimate public purpose' is to insure that the children of the Commonwealth are protected against the harmful effects resulting from the absence, inability, inadequacy or destructive behavior of parents... and to assure good substitute parental care,' it is anomalous that the Commonwealth should concoct a classification so disadvantageous to a class of persons — single parents — who may well be as good or better at parenting than some married couples.

"...Any distinction between married couples and single persons is wholly arbitrary and capricious and adverse to the needs of children."

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"I will touch briefly on the claim that the regulation as applied, invidiously discriminates against homosexuals. Intent, needless to say, is relevant in constitutional litigation under the equal protection clause.

"Section 7.101(1)[DSS Foster Care Policy], on its face, is neutral as to sexual preference. Its list of placement resources distinguishes between married couples and single persons, and not between heterosexuals and homosexuals. Still, since homosexuals are 'single persons,' they are necessarily victimized by the regulation's classification. Plaintiffs claim that Secretary Johnston, in issuing a formal policy statement before promulgation of the disputed regulations, stated that Babets and Jean, admitted homosexuals, 'would not have been approved as foster parents' under the regulations. Such a statement and others contained in the complaint, if true, would serve to indicate a discriminatory intent on the part of Secretary Johnston and DSS.

"Any exclusion of homosexuals from consideration as foster parents, all things being equal, is blatantly irrational.... Plaintiffs are entitled to prove that discrimination based on sexual preference stems from the defendants' 'bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group,' and that it is not a legitimate state interest."

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"Section 7.101(1), governing foster 'Placement with Relatives, Others,' states that 'All out of home placement decisions shall be governed by the best interests of the child.' After considering certain placement factors, DSS 'shall consider the following placement resources in the following order' (emphasis added). Of the six possible placement resources, placement in family foster care with married couples is listed before placement with single persons.

"...It is unnecessary to inquire into the meaning of 'shall consider' since the last sentence of section 7.101(1) states that any placements with single persons 'shall require the written approval of the Commissioner'.... The fact that one category of placement resources — single parents — is placed in order below another — married couples — and requires prior approval when the other does not suggests that the regulation on its face has drawn a classification."

## Report reveals New York police infiltration of group NAMBLA Exonerated after U.S. Senate Probe

By Daniel Tsang

WASHINGTON, DC — The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) has been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing by the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. (See GCN, Vol. 12, No. 26)

The subcommittee reached its conclusion after a two-year probe into pedophilia and pornography, which included information gathering by undercover police officers. In the 76-page report issued early last month by chair William V. Roth (R-Del.), the subcommittee states that NAMBLA did not engage in any criminal conspiracy to violate laws against the sexual exploitation of children. Nor was NAMBLA engaged in any organized distribution of pornography depicting minors.

The conclusions are based in large part on information gained by New York City police officers who infiltrated NAMBLA in 1983-1984. Now based in San Francisco, NAMBLA was headquartered in New York at the time. While the U.S. Postal Inspection Service has admitted to infiltrating NAMBLA — attending its annual meetings, for example — this is the first time local police have admitted to undercover investigations of the group.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) continues its harassment of NAMBLA, with two agents paying a visit to Los Angeles NAMBLA member John Fish earlier this year.

Interviewed by Senate investigators, Captain Jerome Piazza of the New York Police Department's Manhattan South Public Morals division, said the infiltration of NAMBLA, which is said to have lasted for almost a year, was only "moderately successful." Undercover police officers who attended monthly NAMBLA membership meetings in New York City never felt fully trusted by NAMBLA members because the officers would not be able to

engage in sex acts with minors, the report said.

Piazza told investigators: "It's a very tight organization. They're very paranoid about police, though I'm sure they know police have infiltrated them for some time."

NAMBLA sources indicate the group believes an undercover New York City policeman — using the alias of Steve Johnson and posing as a taxi driver — even served during the same period on its national steering committee, and that he subsequently provided information that led to the jailing of a member.

The undercover Manhattan police officers reported that NAMBLA meetings, like its *Bulletin*, discussed general issues concerning pedophilia, but "not specific action that would qualify the discussions as criminal conspiracies." Piazza also said his agents found no signs of organized distribution of pornography depicting minors. The infiltration did help police target several alleged child molesters, and Piazza reported that investigations of other suspected molesters affiliated with NAMBLA are continuing.

While commending law enforcement officials for staging sting operations to snare suspected pedophiles and pornographers, the report implied that undercover investigations may be reaching a saturation point: "Such sting operations have become so popular with police that several investigators told the subcommittee that they had corresponded with suspected pedophiles for weeks only to later discover they were writing to other undercover police officers."

It is also noted that these operations often get exposed in the press. Paedo Alert News (PAN) from Amsterdam, for example, is described as providing the "most sophisticated" details of under-

cover operations that have come to its editors' attention. The Roth report praises PAN for its "impressive international network of correspondents" who supply "the most current (and often accurate) sources of news in the international pedophile community."

Toby Tyler, a San Bernadino County, California, sheriff's deputy, testified that PAN was unquestionably one of his prime sources of intelligence about pedophiles. Since its last issue in December 1985 however, PAN has not appeared, raising suspicion that it has folded. The most current information on police scam operations is detailed in NAMBLA *Bulletin's* regular column, "Entrapment of the Month."

In other sections of the report  
*Continued on page 3*

## Business as Usual in Massachusetts Primaries

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — There were few political upsets in the primaries held here on September 16. Progressives and political newcomers generally lost in this heavily Democratic state where the November elections are often anticlimaxes to the primary run-offs.

### The Eighth District

Despite recent polls showing state Senator George Bachrach narrowing the margin between himself and Joe Kennedy and despite some claims that Black activists Mel King would prove to be seriously underpolled, Kennedy won by a landslide.

Those who were concerned that King would take away Bachrach's progressive votes need not have worried: Bachrach's and King's votes combined would not have



Mel King, after loss to Kennedy, Sept. 16

beat Kennedy. Kennedy garnered 49 percent of the votes, Bachrach 32 percent and King 11 percent.

Kennedy was aided by some last minute endorsements, including one from retiring Eighth District Congressperson Thomas "Tip" O'Neill.

### A Gay Man's Bid for State Senate

Although openly gay candidate Kevin McFadden lost to incumbent Joe Walsh by a 60-40 margin, the fight may not be over yet. According to McFadden's campaign manager Ed Cook, McFadden may decide to wage a sticker campaign against Walsh.

Sticker campaigns have occasionally worked to elect candidates who lose in a primary election. Voters would be given stickers  
*Continued on page 11*



# News Notes

## women’s fest raises 17k to fight

YOSEMITE, CA — “Festie-goers” at the West Coast Women’s Music and Comedy Festival raised \$17,000 to fight an initiative that could lead to the quarantine of people with AIDS.

The initiative, which will be on the November ballot in this state, is sponsored by a group affiliated with right-wing activist Lyndon LaRouche.

“A lot of women thought [the initiative] is not a women’s issue,” said Robin Tyler, dyke comedian and producer of the Labor Day Festival. Apparently Tyler quickly convinced the over 3,000 lesbians attending otherwise.

“The backlash against gay men is not to cure AIDS. It’s just to stop the queers,” Tyler told GCN. She added that the backlash is also aimed “at the entire civil rights movement.” At least 80 percent of the children with AIDS in the U.S. are people of color, as are 40 percent of the adults.

The rights of lesbians are also specifically under attack, said Tyler, noting for example, that a number of the women’s music festivals were forced to cancel this year because they were denied space. While the West Coast event did take place as planned, Tyler is suing the city of San Francisco for revoking a contract to provide a campground for the festival.

According to Tyler, the festival was held at Camp Mather, a city-owned facility, in 1980 and 1981. In 1982, however, camp officials told Tyler they would no longer be able to house the event because it had grown too large.

Tyler filed suit for ten million dollars on September 12 after discovering that a predominately heterosexual festival, twice as large as the mostly lesbian event, was later allowed to rent Camp Mather.

— Kim Westheimer



Mark Sigers

## it hasn’t dawned on delta

SAN FRANCISCO — A man with AIDS who was prohibited from boarding a Delta Airlines flight last month — supposedly because he did not have a medical attendant — died on August 29 here. Mark Sigers’ attorneys say they will pursue their client’s case against the airline for emotional distress damages.

According to *Disability Rag*, Delta spokesperson Bill Berry defended the airline’s actions, saying “Delta does not discriminate, but has a policy to deal with anyone with special needs.”

But the airline that only last year withdrew a policy barring all passengers with AIDS from its flights, has not made its case convincingly. According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Mobilization Against AIDS has called a boycott against the airline, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating the incident, and Senator Pete Wilson and Congresswoman Barbara Boxer are considering Congressional hearings.

In addition, despite Delta’s claims of non-discrimination, the *Bay Area Reporter* notes that the airline has since thrown another person with AIDS off a flight. The airline said the incident was a mistake caused by an uninformed clerk.

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## more news from the unfriendly skies

DENVER — Prior to its infamous sodomy ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court decided on June 27 that airlines are not required to follow Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act which addresses the rights of disabled people.

*Disability Rag* reports that even before the high court’s ruling, American Airlines implemented a policy of charging an extra \$50 for “handling motorized wheelchairs.” When the *Rag* questioned American about the policy, American said not to worry. After all, they are the “official airline” for the Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Pickets of American by Denver activists opposed to the policy have apparently caused the airline to rescind the additional fee requirement.

— Kim Westheimer

## suspects found in murders of puerto rican gay men

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — According to the *San Juan Star*, police here have identified suspects in the killings of a number of gay men last year; including social columnist Ivan Frontera, dentist Luis Manuel Gonzalez Leon and pianist Gustavo Pasas de Leon, among others.

Although unable to charge anyone yet, Jose Luis Lopez, director of the Police Press and Information Office, stated, “We have identified two supposed killers...but at this time there is not sufficient evidence to bring them before a judge.”

So far, police have extradited to Puerto Rico Angel M. Colon Maldonado, 18, who was arrested in a gay bar in Manhattan where he worked as a nude dancer. Maldonado, alias “Pichl,” has been linked to the deaths of Frontera, Gonzalez and Pasas de Leon.

Maldonado was also sought by police in California in connection with the murder of a producer of male pornographic movies.

In all of these killings the victims had apparently been tortured and were found bound and stabbed several times. In some cases, police reported the slayings had apparently occurred after the victim had sex with his attacker or attackers.

— Lyn Rossano

## non-homophobic foster care policy (for a change)

CONCORD, NH — Declining to take the cue from Massachusetts, New Hampshire may instate non-discriminatory foster parent guidelines.

According to the *Advocate*, New Hampshire’s Division for Children and Youth Services (DCYS) has proposed state foster care guidelines which are being hailed as non-homophobic by lesbian and gay activists and civil libertarians. The guidelines, which do not actually use the words “gay and lesbian,” state that a foster parent should be able to give a foster child “a safe, nurturing and stable family environment which is free from abuse and neglect.” The new policy would encourage applications from married couples and unmarried individuals.

The guidelines, which still need to be formally adopted by DCYS, may soon be under attack by State Representative Mildred Ingram. Ingram has threatened to re-introduce a bill, voted down by the House last session, which would ban gay foster and adoptive parents.

— Kim Westheimer

## but only if it’s ‘genuine’

SYDNEY, Australia — Permanent residency status may now be awarded to non-Australian lesbians and gay men who are in “genuine gay relationships” with Australians. *Pink Triangle*, a New Zealand lesbian and gay publication, reports this move came after “intense lobbying” from the Gay Immigration Task Force.

The Task Force is comprised of Australians and their non-Australian partners who are tying to obtain permanent residency.

While the new policy will have some effect, proof of a “genuine gay relationship” may not come easily. People seeking residency will have to provide evidence that they have lived with their partner for at least four years. A temporary resident visa will be available for couples while they attempt to establish the four year period.

Under the new guidelines, approximately 40 applications for permanent residency or temporary residency have been approved for lesbians and gay men.

— Kim Westheimer

## chicago gay boycott wins

CHICAGO — A boycott of a supermarket by the lesbian and gay community here has resulted in a victory.

On July 15, the *Gazette*, a publication of the Evergreen Supermarket, called for compulsory HIV (formerly HTLV-III) testing in conjunction with voter registration and suggested that people testing HIV-positive have their names published and wear identification bracelets. Outraged by the editorial, lesbians and gay men flooded the store’s owner, Jim Vrettos, with letters of protest.

The outcry resulted in the July 18 resignation of the *Gazette*’s managing editor and a printed apology from Vrettos. Not satisfied with this response, the *Windy City Times*, a lesbian and gay newspaper, initiated a boycott in their July 24 edition.

The boycott was recently called off after Vrettos agreed to donate \$500 to the lesbian/gay community to be used for health education and to publish an educational article about AIDS in the *Gazette*.

— Michael Botkin

## call for lesbian/gay march on washington

NEW YORK — The March on Washington Committee, Inc., has issued a call for a March on Washington in 1987 concerning lesbian/gay and AIDS-related issues. The committee was formed at a meeting of representatives of national lesbian/gay organizations and other interested individuals in New York City on July 16, 1986.

Every lesbian/gay organization in the U.S. is invited to send two or more representatives to an organizing conference in New York City, November 14-16, 1986, to establish the demands, set the date, and generally plan the march.

Any interested organization should write to the committee at:

MARCH ON WASHINGTON COMMITTEE, INC.  
P.O. Box 1876  
Old Chelsea Station  
New York, NY 10011

Pre-registration is necessary with a \$25 fee per organization.

— Lyn Rossano

## glad aids law project

BOSTON — Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) has announced plans to hire an attorney to staff the GLAD AIDS Law Project. The work of this part-time position will include screening and supervising cases, working with *pro bono* attorneys as well as doing educational work on AIDS and the law. Attorneys interested in applying for this part-time position should direct resumes to GLAD, P.O. Box 218, Boston, MA 02112 as soon as possible.

Founded in 1978, GLAD is New England’s non-profit, public interest gay and lesbian civil liberties foundation.

— Stephanie Poggi

## black transsexual in ‘protective custody’

WILKES-BARRE, PA — A Black transsexual who prison officials have deemed “a serious threat” to the prison’s “safety, health and welfare,” has been placed in “protective custody” here.

Tyrone “Twiggy” Brown, who has tested antibody-positive for HIV (previously HTLV-III or LAV) has been isolated in the prison infirmary for nearly two months. According to the Philadelphia Gay News, Brown had been placed in solitary confinement during two other separate incidences over the last year.

Inmates at the prison have circulated a petition asking for the release of Brown.

Brown’s lover, who has AIDS Related Complex, is in solitary confinement in the same prison.

— Kim Westheimer

## playboy back in braille

WASHINGTON, DC — Print-disabled poet and writer Deborah Kendrick has won her case against the Library of Congress, restoring *Playboy* magazine and reading selection rights to blind readers and their advocates.

On August 28, U.S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan ruled that Library of Congress chief Daniel Boorstin violated the Constitution by withdrawing *Playboy* from government-financed publication last fall.

Claiming the magazine “assails traditional moral values, peddles licit as well as illicit sex,” Representative Chalmers Wylie (R-Ohio) had convinced Congress to cut \$103,000 from funds budgeted for the blind. That equalled the funds used to produce *Playboy* in Braille.

Two other blind individuals joined Kendrick in her suit, as well as the American Council of the Blind, Blinded Veterans Association, American Library Association, and Playboy Enterprises. They sued Boorstin for yielding to “the sense of Congress,” eliminating *Playboy* from the 36 magazines distributed by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS).

“I’m not wild about Playboy myself,” Kendrick told GCN, “but it is the only magazine [the NLS] publishes that offers sophisticated prose — compared to the slick, formula-writing in others.”

“It’s essential that the choice in selection be there for blind people,” she continued. “I’m naturally opposed to censorship in any form, but on top of that, this ban involved blind and visually-impaired people directly. We face a lot of discrimination already. We’re seen as frightening, crazy, childish, helpless people who can’t make correct decisions for ourselves.”

The decision may be irrelevant given that NLS may not be able to maintain its current level of service — let alone reinstate *Playboy* — in the wake of cuts in the federal budget.

— John Zeh



# Senate Bill Would Ban Underage Porn Ads

By Daniel Tsang

WASHINGTON, DC — A bill to ban the advertising of pornography depicting anyone under the age of 18 has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. S.2398 would also ban the advertising of sex with minors and the interstate transportation of anyone — of whatever age — for an “immoral purpose,” including prostitution or “debauchery.”

The measure is sponsored by Sen. William V. Roth (R-Del), who headed a two-year Senate probe into “child pornography” and pedophilia. (See story on Roth’s investigation of the North

American Man/Boy Love Association [NAMBLA], page one.) Echoing recommendations contained in the Meese Commission report on pornography, portions of the bill may be specifically directed at that group.

Roth who describes the advertising of pornography depicting persons under 18 years of age as “shocking,” has called for swift passage of his bill. “It makes no sense to outlaw the production, sale and possession of child pornography, but permit this harmful and illegal material to be advertised freely. It would be like outlaw-

ing gambling and then showing the lottery results every night on TV,” explained the senator.

In 1978, Congress outlawed visual depiction of sex involving anyone below age 16. In 1984, President Reagan signed a statute raising the age to below 18.

At a Senate hearing August 11 here, Barry Lynn, legislative counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union, blasted the measure proposed by Roth as unconstitutionally broad. Lynn pointed out that the proposal to ban interstate transportation for “immoral purposes” would “make it a crime for

a boyfriend and a girlfriend to cross a state line and engage in sexual activity.”

In addition, banning advertisements of sex with minors “would seem to prohibit an advertisement soliciting sexual activity with someone 17 even if it were lawful in both the state where the 17-year-old lived and the state where the solicitor lived for these parties to engage in sexual activity.”

Lynn also said “Without putting out imprimatur on what may constitute entrapment in some cases, we note that law enforcement officials’ responses to advertisements remain a significant source of leads for prosecutions. Were S.2398 to have the effect of terminating such advertisements completely, this source of infor-

mation would also dry up.”

Even the Justice Department expressed dissatisfaction with Roth’s bill. The department’s chief litigation lawyer, Lawrence Lippe, testified that the language in the proposed law would support an interpretation that even advertisements for drawings or paintings of imaginary children should be banned. “Such an overbroad, though unintended, interpretation would, in our opinion, render the statute constitutionally vulnerable,” Lippe said.

The proposed legislation is described as “fine-tuning” federal pornography statutes in “Child Pornography and Pedophilia,” a report of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations chaired by Roth.

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## NAMBLA Cleared By Senate

*Continued from page 1*

focusing on NAMBLA, the group’s dues-paying membership is estimated to be about 400. The American Christian Voice Foundation claim that NAMBLA has 25,000 members is dismissed as wildly inaccurate.

The report also describes NAMBLA as “by far the most active and sophisticated of the pedophilia organizations in America.” The organization, it is noted, “does not shy away from publicity. Its members have marched in gay pride demonstrations around the country...” The report did not say, however, that the parade organizer in Los Angeles, Christopher Street West, has banned NAMBLA from marching in the west coast city for the past few years. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 48)

The report also said that NAMBLA had many subscribers and supporters in foreign countries, including 50 Europeans who had endorsed a statement supporting NAMBLA’s civil rights.

Lt. William Thorne, a Hackensack, N.J., detective, is quoted as testifying that groups such as NAMBLA “are not as severe a threat to our children as we may feel they are.” Rather, it is the pedophile with no organized affiliations who is the real threat to children, the report said.

Thorne is also quoted as telling investigators, “I sometimes think I owe NAMBLA a thank-you. Now, far more people support the work we’re doing trying to stop child molesters.”

The report placed total membership of all pedophile support groups in the U.S. at probably less than 2,000. It also dismissed

claims that pornography involving minors is a “multibillion dollar industry,” estimating the value of foreign child pornography to not exceed \$5 million, with virtually no domestic pornography now being produced or distributed for profit in the U.S. Nor is organized crime involved. Instead, Sen. Roth explained, “The vast majority of child pornography in the United States is produced by individual pedophiles for little or no profit.”

Roth’s subcommittee also devotes many pages to sex researcher David Sonenschein, who was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment last year in Austin, Texas, for photocopying a sexually explicit photograph from a magazine depicting children. Sonenschein was also indicted for publishing a pamphlet on “How to Have Sex with Kids.” The sale of the pamphlet in Philadelphia’s lesbian and gay bookstore, Giovanni’s Room, in 1984 triggered state and federal investigations.

Children’s liberationist Valida Davila, 84, founder of Childhood Sensuality Circle (CSC) in San Diego, now defunct, is also profiled, as is a former CSC member-turned-informant, Donald Woodward.

Woodward is identified as a gifted engineer who was a contract employee for the CIA and the National Security Agency. Woodward is now in jail in California for child molestation.

The report reveals that CSC itself was infiltrated by a Tulsa, Oklahoma, police officer, who last year used his membership to snare CSC member Valentine Eugene Revera. Revera, lured to a Houston, Texas, motel, was ar-

rested and later convicted of sex with minors. He was sentenced to 36 years in jail. CSC’s membership list, seized in a 1984 raid of Davila’s apartment, has been distributed to law enforcement investigators across the nation, who continue to investigate former CSC members, the report said.

Interviewed by Senate investigators, another pedophile, David Techter, Chicago publisher of *Wonderland*, admitted he permitted his newsletter to be used by postal inspectors to place ads to trap pedophiles. He said he wanted to use their correspondence to unravel more police undercover programs. Sources report that Techter himself was recently arrested.

The report said Lambda, a gay computerized bulletin board in San Francisco, also came under surveillance for allegedly being used by men and minors to contact each other or to exchange “pornography.” Sgt. William Brown of the Houston Police Department accessed Lambda, among “at least 30” bulletin boards. Another policeman, Nicholas Battaglia of the San Jose, California, Police Department, found nine bulletin boards carrying “pedophile-related messages,” and developed four criminal cases on pedophiles based on information he received through the electronic bulletin boards.

Roth, in releasing the report, called for early action on legislation he introduced to ban the advertising of pornography involving sex with minors. A Senate hearing addressed the issue August 11. (See related story)

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## Lesbian Bikers Injured in N.H.

By Kim Westheimer

KEENE, NH — Two members of the Boston-area lesbian motorcycle club, Moving Violations, were seriously injured following an accident here.

Roadrat and another woman were riding with approximately 80 dykes on bikes when they were struck by a Lincoln Continental that lost control. The dykes were on route to a barbecue for Harley Davidson women.

One of Roadrat’s legs was amputated due to the September 13th accident. The other woman asked that her name and condition not be released.

Both women were wearing helmets, a factor which may have saved their lives, said Moving Violations member Marguerite Ascencio.

Alice Kitselman, a Moving Violations member who was also hit by the car, told *GCN* that although she is using crutches, she is doing “pretty well” physically. According to Kit-

selman, the lesbians were hit when an oncoming car lost control, ostensibly because its driver was staring at the bikes and consequently failed to notice a truck that had stopped in front of him.

None of the drivers have been charged in the accident, said Sergeant Robert Hardy, a Keene police officer who is investigating the case.

Although Kitselman said motorists tend to notice women on motorcycles more than men, she said it is plausible that the accident could have happened to a large group of male bikers.

“It’s important that we continue to give support for both of the [injured] women after the initial shock of it all is over,” added Kitselman. To that end, Ascencio is collecting donations for the women. Donations may be sent to Marguerite Ascencio, Body Works Gym, 53 River Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

— filed from Boston

## Plaintiffs Rejoice Over Foster Care Decision

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Suing Dukakis

A 75-year-old Massachusetts court decision, which states that the Governor cannot be sued in his official capacity, was the major basis for dropping Dukakis from the suit. It is clear in Morse’s memorandum that he is hesitant to uphold this ruling.

“...The defendants claim that it is ‘well settled law’ that the Governor cannot be sued,” states Morse. “I hesitate to rule that such a proposition is well settled, considering that the [*Rice v. the Governor*] case, the only state decision on the issue, is three-quarters of a century old. Still, the decision has yet to be overruled by the Supreme Judicial Court and, until that court does settle the issue, Rice remains binding precedent.”

“I’m sorry that Dukakis was dismissed from the case because this [DSS regulation] is his policy,” said Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). “I believe he had a major role in its development and he ought to be held responsible in the courts.” But, he continued, “I don’t think this will have an im-

pact on the outcome of the case and I don’t think this will separate Dukakis from this case in the public eye.”

Anthony Donniger, the lawyer representing Babets et al., agreed that this decision will not hurt the case. Donniger added that Morse was “dead wrong” in dropping Dukakis from the suit as other federal cases in the last 75 years have upheld the right to sue a governor.

### Sexual Orientation on the DSS Application

Babets et al. had argued in their suit asking a person his or her sexual orientation on a foster parent application breaches a constitutional “right to privacy.” Morse countered this claim, stating, “It is difficult to discern how the mere inquiry into a foster parent applicant’s sexual preference, an inquiry that plaintiffs in their brief in opposition conceded is relevant to appropriate foster placement, prompts a right to privacy analysis...” In addition, said Morse, “Whether the DSS learns of an applicant’s sexual preference from a printed form or from a detailed home study, a distinction

not as significant as plaintiffs contend, the inquiry is still made.”

“That ruling did not surprise me,” said Donniger. “It was a tenuous claim. Frankly, no one asserted that [such information] was irrelevant. Sometimes it’s relevant in an affirmative way — a social worker may want to place a child with a gay or lesbian family.” Regarding the distinction between asking sexual orientation in a home study or on an application, Donniger said he saw little difference because “questions in a home study do get recorded.”

Cathcart, who said he also had reservations about this aspect of the case, said, “The problem is not the question [of sexual orientation], but the way in which DSS chooses to use the information.” While expressing concern that DSS may use the information as a means of “kicking people out of the pool,” Cathcart asserted that “forbidding DSS to ask the question doesn’t resolve that question.”

Babets, from whose home two foster children were removed last year following publicity about the placement in the Boston *Globe*, said he would still prefer the ques-

tion about sexual orientation to be asked in the home study. “An application roams and bounces through various offices,” explained Babets. Asking “the question” in the home study would ensure some confidentiality and would not be a major departure for DSS, said Babets, since the department asks people for their police record in a home study, not on an application.

“We [Babets and David Jean] were open about our sexual preference from day one,” added Babets.

### NASW’s Role in the Suit

NASW, who joined the suit claiming that the regulations would interfere with its members’ obligation to serve the best interests of foster children, has no legal standing in the suit, according to Morse. Morse cited Massachusetts law that states that “only persons who have themselves suffered, or are in danger of suffering, legal harm” can act as plaintiffs.

I don’t think it matters,” said Carol Brill, Executive Director of the Massachusetts NASW, referring to the exclusion of her organization. “What matters is that

the judge is treating the issue seriously.”

Although Brill still contends that the DSS regulations interfere with social workers’ duties, she is “ecstatic about the ruling.”

“The NASW added a different perspective to the suit,” said Donniger, noting that the group was suing on behalf of foster children and in defense of licensing regulations which forbid social workers to discriminate against a group of people. Without the NASW in the case, Donniger said he would have to find different methods of presenting the NASW’s perspective. It is likely that the NASW will be called on for “expert testimony.”

### The Next Step for the Case

Donniger said it is unlikely that he will appeal Morse’s decision. If the case is won, as he anticipates, appealing the minor decisions against the suit would be useless, he said.

Neither Donniger nor Stern could predict when the case would actually be heard in court.



# Community Voices

## GCN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Many people who work with us may not know that you are a part of *GCN's* membership, which consists of staff, board members, and volunteers (Friday night stuffers who mail out the paper, Thursday night layout crew, proofreaders, writers, and others who help us greatly by taking on various office projects).

All members are invited to attend monthly membership meetings (alternating the first Monday or Tuesday of each month) to critique the newspaper and to determine the direction of *GCN*.

To facilitate informing all readers about the dates of the meetings and the proposed topics a brief blurb will now magically appear on these pages monthly.

The September meeting mainly consisted of interviewing and confirming the choice of two consultants to work with *GCN*, contingent upon receiving a grant from Haymarket People's Fund. The consultants will examine *GCN's* finances, focusing on setting up a workable accounting system and critiquing our fundraising program. We plan also to seek aid in the area of promotions/marketing.

A few members volunteered to hunt for a new site for *GCN*, since our lease expires in the summer of 1987, and Tremont Street is becoming condominium city.

Finally, a plug was put in for *GCN's* exciting benefit: Bright Morning Star and Tom Wilson Weinberg at the Somerville Theater, Friday Sept. 26 (see back page ad for details).

The next membership meeting will be Monday Oct. 6, with a potluck at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30. Proposed agenda items include: features and news — suggestions for future articles; *GCN* job ads — is it appropriate to include "a commitment to anti-classism" as a quality we prefer in applicants? Is this an accurate description of the membership's politics? The Book Supplement — should we alter its form, for example running book reviews more often and perhaps publishing other types of monthly supplements? Speaking Out columns — should there be any criteria for submissions, such as a clearly stated connection between the issues discussed and the gay/lesbian community? *GCN's* letter policy — should we continue our current practice, which is to print all letters except personal attacks?

Call *GCN* at 617-426-4469 for more information on membership meetings and/or to begin volunteering. We need your help and welcome your input. Hope to see you on October 6.

## hunks calendar disrespectful

Dear *GCN*:

I would like to respond to the ad printed in *GCN's* Aug 10-16 issue entitled "Hunks of Nicaragua." This is the name of a calendar being put out by the anti-intervention/solidarity organization "United Fruit." The calendar is as *GCN* describes it: "a parody of faggot skin magazines with facts about the revolution."

To begin with, I would like to recognize that United Fruit has been important in making the connection between Gay liberation and the struggle for National liberation and in building solidarity with the Nicaraguan Revolution. This is why it is doubly upsetting to see this same group responsible for developing a method of "out-reach" that is as disrespectful of Nicaraguan people as this "Hunks of Nicaragua."

To take the example of the quote underneath a photograph of a naked Nicaraguan soldier, "His weapon is loaded and ready to bomb your rear flank." But that will have to wait till peacetime. Right now Carlos must overcome the Contras before he can come over you." This sentence is loaded with the eroticization of militarism — a militarism imposed on Nicaragua by the U.S. — hardly an erotic situation. The real situation in Nicaragua is trivialized by being portrayed in this way. If this calendar was developed to be a "humorous" appeal to a broader, less political base in the Gay community, it instead appeals to racist imagery of Third World people as exotic sexual objects, and insinuates that Nicaragua's revolution should be supported to make the attractive men available; this is representative of colonial mentality that we must fight against. Considering that racism is a critical problem in the Gay and progressive movements, this calendar does not contribute to building a principled solidarity.

Also, in light of the fact that one of Nicaragua's campaigns is the eradication of pornography, the calendar does no service to the goals of the revolution. However, we as North Americans may feel about eroticism and/or pornography we cannot impose our standards on Nicaragua, just as we cannot impose North American Gay culture or our agenda for Gay liberation on Nicaragua. The Nicaraguans will develop their own concept of Gay liberation within the context of their revolution.

Furthermore, I am wondering if "Carlos" was asked his permission for the use and distribution of his photograph. Considering that *GCN* states that United Fruit is planning on Fall, Winter and Spring issues of this calendar, I sincerely hope they will reconsider their outreach strategy.

In struggle-  
Sonja De Vries

## erect male whale

Dear *GCN*:

We are everywhere! Recently we went on a whale-watching trip in the waters near San Francisco. There were "scientists" leading the tour. One Doctor mentioned that sometimes you'd see a 6 foot erect penis stick out of the water as a whale rolled over. He added that a lot of the time they are not copulating when this happens. He started to tell us why, but hesitated. Some of us demanded that he tell us why. He finally relented, and said that he knew they weren't copulating, because they would see another erect male whale alongside the first one. In other words, Gay love in the whale world. But, of course, once again, we have supposedly unbiased people refusing to reveal the truth unless forced to.

I hope someone soon writes a book on homosexuality in the animal world. The story needs to be told.

Love ya all,  
Stephanie Marchand  
Berkeley, CA

## smooth and magnetic

Dear *GCN*:

What a twisted concept of love these strait heterosexuals have here. They want to "love and possess" me, but they don't want me to love them back. They don't understand that their concept of love is enslavement.

But I am teaching them my ways, and I am convictedly demonstrating through my strong physicalness that to be more than just friends is a responsibility and they are learning that it's not me after all who is the weak and ignorant one.

So I am managing okay. It's not simple always. When many straits feel threatened they can be dangerous. So one has to be very smooth and magnetic to avoid their cultural oppression and ignorance.

Still standing,  
David E. Rezabek  
Box 900 — 34034  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

## levels of complexity

Dear *GCN*:

I am writing in answer to Nancy Bereano's critique of my review of *The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Woman's Anthology*. I appreciate that she took the time to point out what was evidently unclear in my review.

I did not mean to say that white-skinned Jews do not benefit from our skin color, nor did I mean to say that we are not racist, however good our intentions. I agree with Ms. Bereano that "this is not about greater or lesser suffering" and that it is critical to accurately name our "real differences and the powers attached to them." That is precisely what I had hoped to do. In an attempt to clarify this point, I think there are three things to be said.

First, our differences are not simple. It is very different to be a white-skinned Jew than it is to be a white-skinned Christian than it is to be a Jew of color than it is to be . . . . Class background, gender, sexuality, parents' country of birth, and the many other ways we differ add to the levels of complexity. To truly acknowledge our differences means to see them in their full complexity. Only then can we begin moving toward true social transformation.

Second, it is true that in some sense Jewishness is a race. Comments about how Jewish someone does or doesn't look make this very clear. It is also true that those of us who look most like the stereotypic Jew are penalized for that, both by non-Jews and Jews. Alice Block discusses differences in privilege between her sister and herself that were rooted in outer appearance as more or less Jewish in her book *Lifetime Guarantee*.

Third, the issue is one of assimilation. It is important for us to remember that we can only assimilate to the extent allowed by the dominant culture. That acceptance is illusory, can be withdrawn on a whim, and is not internally logical. White-looking Jews in Nazi Germany were most often murdered when it became known that they were Jews, but some were spared because someone in power decided to let them live — at least for a while. Assimilation will not save us, no matter what we look like.

I hope this letter has been clarifying. Even more, I hope that it will spark further discussion of these issues. This is a start to the discussion I wished for in *The Tribe of Dina*. I thank Nancy Bereano for her part in it.

Sincerely,  
Sara Karon  
Malden, MA  
P.S. Women who wish continue this dialogue directly with me may write to me c/o *GCN*, Box 137, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

## Part-time Work

**Grantswriter:** *GCN* seeks grantswriter for research/proposal writing on ad hoc basis. Knowledge of progressive foundations and *GCN* preferred. 10% commission. Letters of application by Sept. 22 to Grantswriter Search, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA, 02111. Gay men/lesbians of color encouraged to apply.

## police apathy

Dear *GCN*:

I was assaulted last night in the Fens Victory Gardens. Two crazed men separated my friend and I, chasing him and threatening me to go in the other direction. I ran to a pay phone and called the police. I tried to impress upon them that police needed to get there right away before my friend was possibly killed, but the officer calmly kept saying she needed a description. In frustration, I said I didn't get a good look, but please just get some cops there! Finally, one car did come by in ten minutes, casually cruising around the neighborhood. They never stopped to ask anyone about any activity, and simply drove away, never going into the gardens.

Since I live in the adjacent neighborhood, I walk by the gardens often. It is not too uncommon to hear screams for help. I have often called the police. Sometimes they come, sometimes they do not.

Once during the daytime, I saw a man's head being beaten to a bloody pulp. I described to the police that the victim was white, and the aggressor was black. In less than sixty seconds, three police cruisers arrived, a motorcycle, and a foot patrolman. If only I had always known that I had to say a white man was being beaten by a black man! How simple! The straight white Irish male homophobe police force in Boston otherwise labels the incident as a faggot getting his due, and they consider it a low priority.

The MDC has "rangers" that patrol the various gardens in the city. Where are they — in the daytime — when these violent assaults occur? They are busy picking up litter, chatting with tourists, and generally being useless.

I suppose there will always be violence against gays. But there is no reason I should stand for apathy from my own government.

I may be a faggot, Mayor Flynn, but I'm also a taxpayer. Where's the police protection that we are paying for?

Name withheld upon request.

## somehow, it doesn't seem right

Dear *GCN*:

I read the two recent articles about male prostitution and must make a comment. I'm in the slammer right now because I had a relationship with someone under 18. He was from a broken home. Both father and mother were alcoholics, and he'd already been in plenty of trouble with the law. You can add to that the fact that he had an alcohol problem of his own.

The results of our involvement together were that he got a part-time job (arranged through a friend of mine), respect for himself as a person, and something to do other than to 'hang-out' and get in trouble. By the time we were separated by the law, he had cut back on the booze to about a 6-pack a week and had raised his grades in school to B's and A's where they had been D's and F's.

I got 8 years in prison!

Somehow it doesn't seem right that I should go to prison for doing the job his parents couldn't (or wouldn't) do. As an interesting footnote to this story, my "victim" is writing to me here thru a mutual friend! Does that say anything about the state of things in our justice system?

I would like to hear from others who are in similar situations but the bigots in the mailroom here wouldn't understand, so I'll just sign this, Rotting in a Florida prison

P.S. Once again thanks for the subscription to *GCN*! I've written to a few prisoners in other states and have gotten a fairly good response. So I've got a few penpals (4 to be exact) and am hoping to see my ad in *GCN* soon. Keep up the good work. You're bringing a bit of sunshine to a lot of people on the inside.

[*Pris. Proj. Note: Letters to "Rotting" may be sent to GCN to be forwarded.*]

*GCN* prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPACED and limited to five typed pages. Send to Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

## GayCommunityNews

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(bottom) Alison Bechdel

Cover design: Ina Cohen

*Gay Community News* is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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# Speaking Out

## AIDS, Gay Men and the Insurance Industry

By Richard D. Mohr

Wisconsin, California and the District of Columbia have barred insurance companies from using tests for the AIDS anti-body to screen applicants for health and life insurance policies. At the urging of gay activists, Governor Cuomo has introduced such legislation in the New York assembly. Are such laws warranted and just? Though the relevant issues have been misunderstood on both sides, governments can legitimately and should bar insurance companies from using the AIDS anti-body test.

The gay side tries to play down the ability of the test to predict the likelihood that someone will come down with AIDS. And as long as one sticks just to the individual this is

true; after all, not everyone who smokes heavily will come down with lung cancer or die of heart disease. But the individual case is irrelevant to the determination of actuarial tables for insurance purposes. What is relevant is statistical probabilities *over groups*. And there is no denying that people who have the AIDS anti-body revealed by the test are much more likely to come down with AIDS than those for whom the test is negative, just as smokers are much more likely to come down with lung cancer than non-smokers. That one cannot say which individual smoker or which anti-body carrier will become ill is irrelevant to the determination of insurance rates.

The insurance industry, however, is equally misguided. It claims that banning the use of the anti-body test is unfair because the rates of the majority of people will go up even though they are not at risk for AIDS. It is true that rates will go up, but this does not establish that the government policy is unfair.

To establish that the law is unfair, the insurance industry would have to show that this rate increase will violate some right or legitimate claim of its clients. And this it cannot do. While it is nice if costs, like taxes or the price of milk, are lower as the result of some government policy, no one's rights have been violated if some legitimate government purpose has the effect of raising taxes or the price of milk. Similarly, though, it may irk the majority (and the insurance industry is counting on this), simply raising the price of insurance does not violate anyone's rights.

To make the point concretely, does an individual policy holder have a legitimate complaint against this insurance company if the insurance company has not pursued a policy of trying to screen out every imaginable risk group for every imaginable disease that might raise insurance rates? The answer is obviously not.

My rights against my insurance company have not been violated if it fails to ask women whether they have had multiple sex partners and thus have put themselves at increased risk for fatal cervical cancer. There is nothing wrong therefore — no rights are violated — if the government, for some legitimate reason, freezes insurance companies from asking that question. And it does have such a legitimate reason: to protect privacy. So too, then, if the government freezes the industry from asking after a person's anti-body status, no individual policy holder's rights have been violated. And the government does have a legitimate reason to do so: to help raise gay people out of their refugee status, a status that has been aggravated by the AIDS crisis.

Insurance companies come to the AIDS crisis with dirty hands. Traditionally, they have as a matter of policy discriminated against gay people in issuing policies and in employment opportunities, and in practice they have done so especially effectively — because they snoop. They make their money from the statistical norm, and so they suppose that is also the moral norm. They mistakenly think they are promoting something normal, something American, when they have discriminated against gays. It is therefore especially appropriate — a matter of compensatory justice — that the insurance industry should shoulder some of the burden in the move toward social justice for gays.

*Richard D. Mohr is a member of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Illinois.*

## Community Voices

### just because daddy is gay

Dear GCN:

At times as I sit here wondering how my family and friends could have abandoned me so completely when they found out I am gay/bisexual, I tell myself that I am strong and the time apart from others will go quickly; yet, at other times...

Serving time in prison is a very weary task, a loneliness that sinks its teeth into you and leaves your future feeling empty and uncertain.

Prison is a bitterness often because many of us are here only because of being misinformed about our legal possibilities or because of being without money to get help.

There in the visiting room is a man who remembers the past warmth of the man he whispers to, and is now separated from, as well as from his family, friends and kids as they try to understand that their daddy can't go home with them and that he's gay.

I have been the victim of rape in here, because a guard allowed it to happen, and I want to pursue a lawsuit against the prison, which won't take any kind of action. I would like for someone to please help me get an investigation concerning this matter and also their putting me, the victim, in isolation and their doing nothing to the aggressors.

If you know anyone that might help with this suit, please advise (before they "kill" me).  
Claude Buchanan Hester  
127717 H2/B 223  
Box 280  
Odenville, AL 35120

P.S. I would love to have a penpal from the free world; then again, anyone would do just fine, really.

### erotic imagination

Dear GCN:

Nearly a page of Bronski: "a stretch of thigh peeking out from a beachtowel," "the most erotic of" imaginations.

Sincerely,  
Michael Patrick O'Connor  
Ann Arbor, MI

### excellent forum for contempt

Dear GCN:

I think John Storen should be encouraged to vent his hatred and contempt for SM in an essay specifically devoted to that purpose rather than venting his spleen in a so-called "review" of John Preston's book. Although his sentiment is hardly concealed in his review ("Preston and his ilk," "probably more at home in a Nazi boot camp," and "the aim of sadomasochism is to divorce the human from his humanity"), the choice of this reviewer is a disservice to author and reader alike. Why not select someone who might actually be able to review the book?

This review reminds me of pre-gay liberation book reviews of homosexuality: the review has nothing to do with the book, but it provides an excellent forum for the reviewer to slam the "sick" and "deficient" characters and activities chronicled there.

I was most disappointed to see this type of review in GCN.  
Sincerely,  
Alice Waters  
San Francisco, CA

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*don't miss bms/tww* see back pg.



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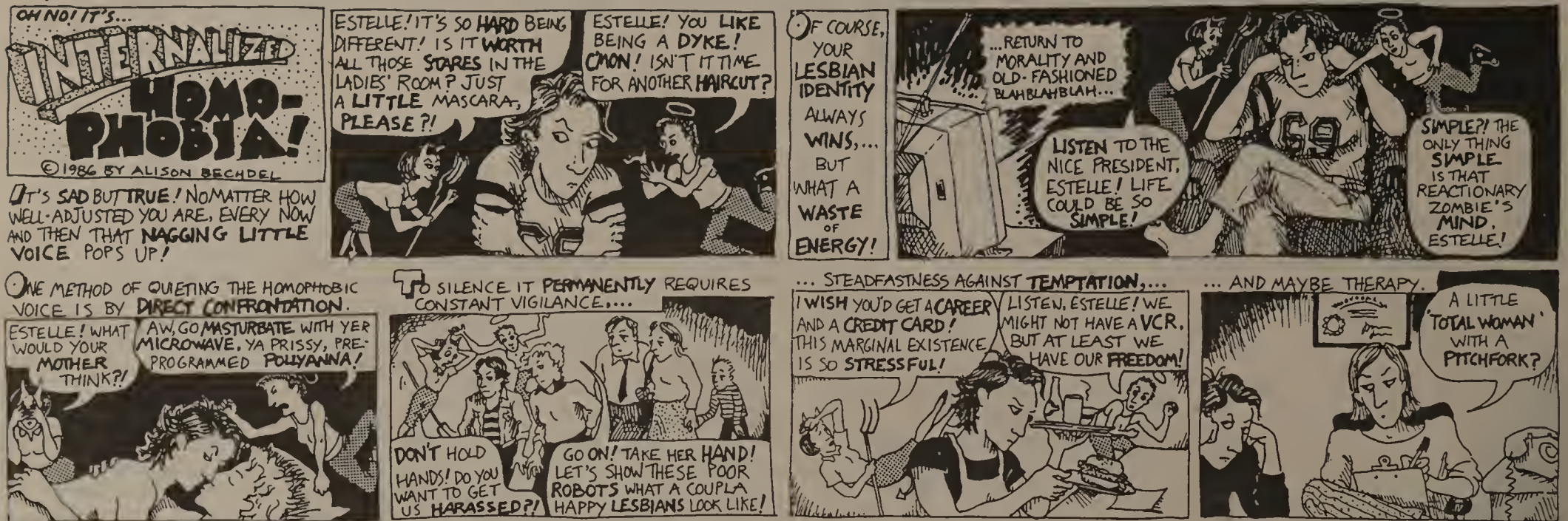
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# Laugh of the Hour

## Dykes To Watch Out For



## Senate Porn Bill

Continued from page 3

Remarkably similar fine-tuning is spelled out in the Meese Commission report. That report recommends that state legislatures amend pornography statutes to make it a felony to advertise information as to where sexually explicit materials depicting minors can be found.

In another recommendation, the Meese report called on Congress to enact legislation to ban the visual depiction of sexual activities by persons under 21. It further recommended that states enact laws to make the possession of pornography depicting minors a felony.

If Roth's bill passes as drafted, editors of lesbian, gay and alternative periodicals would have to carefully monitor their classified advertising. They would have to bar ads from those seeking underage partners and ads from readers under 18 but over the age of consent in their state, seeking contact

with others. Gay youth groups in particular may no longer be allowed to advertise.

Although the Roth subcommittee report on pedophilia exonerated NAMBLA of any criminal wrong-doing, the proposal to bar advertising among pedophiles may also be a step in the process of eventually outlawing the group.

The Meese Commission recommended banning even the receiving of information as to where sexually explicit material depicting minors could be found. If such a law were in effect, undercover agents, who infiltrated NAMBLA in 1983-1984, could very easily supply such information and then make arrests. Frustrated that NAMBLA publications and meetings are constitutionally protected, federal authorities are now seeking another way of criminalizing the activities of pedophiles and their supporters.

There is further evidence that the move to ban advertising among pedophiles is directed against NAMBLA. The only mention of NAMBLA in the text of the 1960-page Meese Commission's final report appears in a footnote to recommendation 48, which calls for states to ban the advertising of pornography depicting minors.

The footnote appears at the end of the following section elaborating on the recommendation: "Many people who produce and exchange child pornography have created intricate networks of information. They may join together for the purpose of trading children or trading information about children. Some pedophiles and child pornographers have formed associations which have national membership."

The report in a footnote then states that "NAMBLA publishes the *Bulletin* and supports laws that would abolish the minimum age

for consensual sexual acts. This group is recognized as an association of and for pedophiles."

The Commission report goes on to explain that "legislation directed at curbing the flow of child pornography and information relating to its production and its distribution will enable law enforcement agents to attack the methods of child sexual abusers." It also adds, "It is well recognized that the advertisement of material which is illegal constitutionally may be prohibited. Since child pornography is illegal, states may enact statutes to prohibit the advertising of such material."

Despite the Commissions' conclusions, NAMBLA has never advertised the availability of pornography depicting persons under age 18 and has in fact officially condemned the exploitation of minors in commercial pornography.

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# They've Hit That Perfect Bronski Beat

*Truthdare Doubledare*, a record by Bronski Beat, on Forbidden Fruit/MCA Records. 1986.

By Christopher Wittke

Somehow, seemingly against all odds, the gay British electro-pop band Bronski Beat has sidestepped the sophomore slump which affects so many bands: they've managed to deliver an incredible second lp, *Truthdare Doubledare*. Original lead singer, Jimi Somerville, he of the lilting falsetto on their first album *Age of Consent*, is now a memory. Somerville left the band due to the typical "musical differences" and has formed a new group, the Communards. Wisely, the two remaining members, Steve Bronski and Larry Steinbachek chose to carry on with a new lead singer, John Jon.

The new album is a very pleasant surprise. Where *Age of Consent* proved inconsistent and scattershot, song styles ranged from campy cabaret and silly blues rip-offs to the two genuinely good songs, "Small Town Boy" and "Why?," *Truthdare Doubledare* is packed with dance hits from start to finish. The single "Hit That Perfect Beat" sets the groove in motion and Bronski Beat just doesn't let up until the final strains of the lovely "In My Dreams" which closes side two. In between the listener is treated to lyrics which reflect the hopes, dreams and fears of young gay people circa 1986, all set to infectious dance rhythms and clever synthesizer effects.

*Truthdare Doubledare* benefits from expanded instrumentation as well. Beyond the expected synths, we are treated to *real* guitars and percussion, and more wind instruments than you could shake a stick at, including an African Nose Flute. The real secret weapon, however, is an expanded



The new Bronski Beat

backing vocal section which fleshes out the band's sound and helps the group avoid the sameness of tone which plagued them with Somerville at the helm.

John Jon is a very soulful singer, his anger at the new right propels the title song, as does his compassion in the inspirational "We Know How It Feels." "Dr. John" is easily the best pop song dealing with the AIDS epidemic to date. "Punishment For Love" is a lyrical retelling of the "Small Town Boy" story with a melody which very closely resembles, appropriately enough, "People Are People," by Depeche Mode. As difficult as it is to choose, "C'mon C'mon" and "This

*Continued on page 11*

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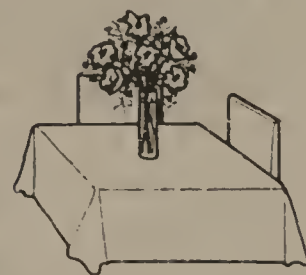
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# Sociology, Philosophy and Sex Where We Come From — Where We Might Be Going

## Lesbian Philosophy: Explorations

Jeffner Allen  
*Institute of Lesbian Studies, Palo Alto, 1986*  
\$9.95, 120 pp.

## Lesbian Origins

Susan Cavin  
*Ism Press, Inc., San Francisco, 1985*

## The Lesbian Issue: Essays from Signs

Estelle B. Freedman, Barbara C. Gelpi, Susan L. Johnson, and Kathleen M. Weston, editors.  
*The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1985*  
\$10.95, 320 pp.

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Reviewed by Nora Janeway

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The problem with academic lesbiana is its tendency to make lesbianism merely academic. The joy of academic lesbiana is its ability to shake us free of whatever territory we'd assumed to be beyond question, presenting us with new and liberating possibilities for our lives. In Jeffner Allen's *Lesbian Philosophy: Explorations*, in Susan Cavin's *Lesbian Origins*, and in *The Lesbian Issue: Essays from Signs*, I waded through varying degrees of academese in the search for good lesbian theory. Some of what I found was silly or pretentious. Some of it made me nervous. Some of it was mildly interesting; and some of it made it all worthwhile.

What I was looking for when I opened these books was theory with a fundamentally critical bent. I'm as fond as the next dyke of single-minded lesbian-chauvinist dogma; rah-rah oppositional essentialism can go a long way towards drowning out the voices of misogyny firmly planted in our minds. But our tendencies to mythologize the world and our lives, to retrench in certainty, are strong enough as is. Numerous feminists have discovered how easily theory which originally promised a radical shift of definitions and the creation of an empowering world-view, can slip into prescriptive moralism. So I have particular respect for theory which risks breaking open old assumptions in favor of a multi-level approach to gender, sex, sexuality and social roles. Good theory, at its best, begins to be adequate to real life. Bad theory tries to make real life adequate to the coherence of its own internal structure. Fearful of confusion, bad theory constructs hermetically sealed fortresses, keeping "them" — all the many "thems" — out of "our" safe world. Down come the gates.

At one point in my life I would have been thrilled to discover Jeffner Allen's *Lesbian Philosophy: Explorations*. It's a classy-looking merger of "white-boy philosophy" and lesbian separatism: Heidegger and Judy Grahn! Plato and Monique Wittig! The results are appealing: a world-view of breathtaking scope, enlisting all of that seductive male reasoning into the service of Amazon Nation.

However. If this is a book of lesbian philosophy, where are the lesbians? Okay, maybe Allen means The Lesbian, not lesbians. I am willing to accept some lesbianism-as-woman-bonding for the sake of an argument. But what we get in *Lesbian Philosophy* are descriptions of The Female/Lesbian Essence: "Female friendship — liquid, freely flowing, watery and damp — the aqueous. . . . Bodies. . . . celebrate, in sensitive gestural language, our being together. . . ." (pp. 89, 92). Is this the lesbianism you know?

Allen's undertaking also feels dishonest. Why does she bolster up her anti-patriarchal rhetoric and her sweeping statements about "The masculine" and "The feminine" with the wisdom of long-dead European male philosophers? As far as I can tell, the book's liberal sprinklings of contextless phrases about logocentrism and truth-as-correspondence are included primarily to impress the non-philosopher reader with Allen's erudition. It's a strange world in which distilled Heideggerian philosophy is quoted at the reader in an attempt to recruit her into a proposed violent lesbian army.

The world of *Lesbian Philosophy* ends up feeling like a well-guarded fortress with a lot to offer those who'll cast their lot with Allen. My problem with the book stems from my (heretical?) sense of connection with those to whom Allen would deny entrance: those women of color "misguided" enough to not see themselves as solely female; mothers; faggots, men of color, boy-kids, or

reactionary nostalgia for some imagined original purity of blood or thought. Plato and all of his predecessors would have felt right at home with Allen's pre-Nietzchian distaste for the complex, contradictory and changing world in which we live. I sympathize with the feelings that prompt Allen's conservatism — feelings of rage at continued victimization of women, a sense of the power and love of the worlds created by women for women, feelings of exhaustion in the face of repeated assault — but I don't like it when what was once the creation of safe space, becomes a stifling insularity.

If *Lesbian Philosophy* can be considered a covert call to an origin which never existed, Susan Cavin's *Lesbian Origins* is a refreshingly blatant version of the same campaign. Cavin's central tenet is that a societal overdose of males or masculinity inevitably spawns patriarchal/homophobic oppression of women. Her book is visually attractive, with a gorgeous cover and a generous sprinkling of reproductions of feminist artwork inside. It is also more accessible than *Lesbian Philosophy*. And after Allen, Cavin's semi-materialist and nominally multicultural approach is a welcome change.

However, *Lesbian Origins* suffers from a confusion of purpose. Written as a Ph. D. thesis in political sociology, it should have been considerably reworked before graduating to book status. As is, I felt constantly jostled between Cavin's need to justify her theories to a patriarchal academic establishment, and her need to maintain her integrity as a radical lesbian. I end up feeling as if I were watching Cavin defend her thesis to a panel of white male academics. This is hardly the kind of format which is going to instill revolutionary fervor in the oppressed female masses and send them flocking to the lesbian army which Cavin, like Allen, proposes as a way out of patriarchal oppression.

I am also disturbed by *Lesbian Origins'* sociobiological underpinnings. Cavin's attempts to explain contemporary society by studying orangutans, gorillas and "more primitive" peoples, partake of a well-established tradition of biological-determinist pseudo-science — a tradition which continues to be deeply racist as well as misogynist. I don't like people telling me what's "natural" for me. Even coming from the mouth of a lesbian-feminist, it's too close for comfort to right-wing dogma. And as a feminist whose identity is a compendium of gender, racial, sexual, class, political, regional and countless other factors, I can just see Cavin throwing most of me out of her study along with a lot of other ill-fitting data.

Finally, Cavin's scholarship is often clumsy, her reasoning crude and sometimes downright insulting. What on earth is a "female event," or a "totally female ideology?" And where does she get the idea that homosexual incest is not only benign, but actually "healthy and functional to family life" (p. 58)?

Reading *The Lesbian Issue: Essays from Signs* (a scholarly journal of "women in culture and society") takes a lot more work than either Allen's or Cavin's book. It has an unappetizing-looking purple and orange cover, scattered with the ghostly-looking images of notable women whom, one feels, one is supposed to know. The fifteen essays inside are extremely diverse, and there are four editors; the issue as a whole lacks the seductive unifying fervor of a book with one single-mindedly impassioned author. *The Lesbian Issue* looks stodgily academic and dry, dry, dry.

Inside, though, *The Lesbian Issue* often sparkles, amazes, stimulates and risks. I have never seen such a proliferation of lesbiana in one place. Here we have a 17th-century nun finger-fucking her girlfriend in an Italian convent; late-1970s Amazon Nation auto mechanics juggling feelings and finances in a Californian women's community; 19th century butches and femmes; pre-conquest Native American women transsexuals and their wives; turn-of-the-century schoolgirl passions; and, of course, the requisite studies of studies of studies of women. What we have here are a million lesbianisms. What we have here is the work of women wise enough to never assume that "what is a lesbian?" is a closed question. And there is so much more feeling in even a few words about Benedetta (Italian nun) or Sahaykwise (Native American berdache) than there is in pages and pages of bloodless scripture on women's aqueous friendships.

Particularly recommended essays include "The Mythic Mannish Lesbian. . . .," which gives historical grounding to latter-day lesbians' often mixed feelings about being "mannish," about sexual aggressiveness/passivity, and about feeling "out of role" gender-wise; and "Sexuality and Gender in Certain Native American Tribes. . . ." in

Workplace" will interest anyone who's ever worked in an "alternative" setting. Read, also, the two review essays for a taste of some of the conflicting tendencies of contemporary lesbian-feminist thought.

Finally, my two favorite essays in *The Lesbian Issue* are actually documents. One is from the U.S. in the 1950s and consists of homophobic indoctrination lectures for women Navy recruits, and correspondence between the ACLU and dishonorably-discharged Air Force dykes. The other details the "crimes" of the Italian nun I mentioned above. Check out this true story of the Abbes of the Covent of the Mother of God, who took on the persona of a male angel named Splendidiello when she wanted to make love to her beloved fellow-nun Bartolomea.

The triumph of *The Lesbian Issue* is that, in refusing the myth of a "transcendent lesbian identity," its authors and editors have shown us this nun, these white auto mechanics, these literary figures and Native American gender-benders in all of their astonishing variety. By refusing to force lesbian experience into artificial conformity with neat theory, they have given us more lesbianisms than we might ever have imagined. And by refusing to seek some purity that never was, they have encouraged a proliferation of possibilities for the creation of our own lives as we are living them today. *This* is the kind of theory that I was looking for.



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*By refusing to force lesbian experience into artificial conformity with neat theory, «Signs has» given us more lesbianism than we might ever have imagined.*

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anyone else "empenised" (sic); bisexuals, heterosexuals, and non-vanilla lesbians; and anyone else who feels different loyalties than Allen's.

At heart, *Lesbian Philosophy* is a deeply conservative book. It calls for a return to the origins of philosophy, back to a time when the whole world was thought to be reducible to one tidy substance. It is suffused with a

which the author successfully demonstrates that the linkings we assume to be inevitable between gender, sexuality, social role and sexual preference, can and have been formulated in radically different ways. Arguelles and Rich's article on Cuban queers gives first-hand insight into the roots, forms and limits of Cuban homophobia and homosexuality. "Sexuality. Class and Conflict in a Lesbian





the future," Weeks hopes "to contribute to a more rational and optimistic vision of the subject of sex than is currently on offer from either right or left" (p.x).

Weeks offers judicious and thoughtful readings of specific sexual questions raised by AIDS, pornography, man-boy love, s-m and public sex. His analysis of AIDS as a panic shows Weeks at his strongest and demonstrates the merits of his sociological/historical methodology. "The history of the last two hundred years or so," he explains, "has been punctuated by a series of panics around sexuality — over childhood sexuality, prostitution, homosexuality, public decency, venereal diseases, genital herpes, pornography — which have often grown out of or merged into a generalized anxiety" (p. 44). The generalized anxiety has had effects far worse than any disease or sexual activity.

The author's judiciousness, however, creates a questionable pose. Weeks plays the role of a judge who carefully weighs all the pro's and con's of every sexual position; advocates of diverse pleasures are conceptualized as defendants. Since he sets himself up as judge, his own decrees gain a favored position, which make occasional errors shocking and painful. His conclusion that "Paedophiles can see little relevance in feminism" (p. 214) is quite false; within such groups as PIE or NAMBLA there is division over this issue as there has been in the early history of DOB and other groups. And the United States porn industry is not big business like IBM or GE but a marginal economic activity like poetry or baby-bottle nipples: miniscule even when compared to the advertising or the Bible industries.

Covering so many issues and authors, Weeks is inevitably less convincing in some than other areas. His reading of anthropologists Bronislaw Malinowski and Margaret Mead annoyed me. Malinowski was a mean, despicable man. Later anthropologists interviewed some of his informants whom he claimed had no knowledge of homosexuality; the so-called primitives said they were afraid to tell him what they were doing because he

Weeks denounces the dichotomy set up between sex and society, but his deconstruction of sex is much more enthusiastic and comprehensive than his deconstruction of society. As a sociologist/historian, he seems much more enamored of society than of sexuality. The latter is a non-entity but the other seems all powerful: "Social institutions which embody these definitions (religion, the law, medicine, the educational system, psychiatry, social welfare, even architecture) are constitutive of the sexual lives of individuals" (p. 178). Sex is then nothing; it becomes at best a passive essence, a blank slate on which all these powerful forces inscribe directions. Unless I missed it, not a single sexual act is described in this whole book. Is sex a specter haunting "society?"

One of Weeks' unexamined hate words is "excess": "glorification of sexual excess" (p. 113); "1960's excess" (p. 20); "the excesses of the 'sexual revolution'" (p. 168); sexuality's "own contradictions and excesses" (p. 260). What exactly does the author mean when he denounces "outrageous sexual indulgence" (p. 48) or a paedophile's "exaggerated respect for children" (p. 229)? Since Weeks never describes sex or any sexual act, there is no way of knowing what he thinks too much sex would be. The same question might arise with footnotes. Are Weeks' five hundred and seventy notes "excessive?" I think not, but a less promiscuous reader might find them excessive. Kinsey might be helpful here. He noted that moralists once said masturbation was hazardous to your health, but when the folly of that diagnosis was uncovered, they retreated to the notion that excessive masturbation was dangerous. As long as you can become sexually excited, however, you can masturbate without harm; excessive masturbation is biologically impossible.

Weeks uses other words like "excess" which inadvertently uncover his hates and fears. Susan Griffin's anti-pornography (p. 204), Boyd Macdonald's *Flesh and Meat* (p. 216), Pat Califia (p. 237) and consumer sex (p. 258) are all "romantic." "Romanticism" has been neatly

## As a sociologist/historian, Weeks seems much more enamored of society than of sexuality.

wouldn't understand. Robert Briffault's thesis that marriage had a prehistory of promiscuity so terrified Malinowski that he blocked Briffault's entire academic career. Weeks never mentions Briffault or his fascinating three volume *Mothers*.

With Margaret Mead, Weeks repeats the lies and innuendos intended to smear her after her death; instead of Derek Freeman's hatchet job (*Margaret Mead and Samoa, The Making and Unmaking of an Anthropological Myth*) he would have done better to use Mead's own fascinating *Blackberry Winter* for understanding her approach. His favoring Malinowski (who was hardly a constructionist) and disfavoring Mead (who was hardly an essentialist) gives some hint of what is really important to him. Malinowski was a sharp defender of convention against promiscuity; Mead promoted promiscuity.

The elaborate dichotomy pervading the book, which divides everyone between essentialist and constructionist, is really a covert attack on promiscuity. Here Weeks depends on Foucault's 1976 *Volante de savior* in French *Will to Know*, but translated in 1978 as *The History of Sexuality: Vol 1: An Introduction*. Foucault resolved the difficulties of academic leftists who had run up against a Marxist brick wall of indifference to sex and gender questions. They were equally annoyed by faggot and feminist claims that the personal is political; these cultural revolutionists demanded disclosures about where the author "was coming from." They denounced the white, male, ruling class taint of academia. Foucault's formulations answered both annoyances: the indifferent Marxist and the pesky populists. He talked about sex without talking about his own sexual experiences.

Weeks follows Foucault only in deconstructing sex and sexuality, but not in deconstructing the omniscient author. Weeks constantly appears in his book as an enlightened judge, carefully weighing, concluding, summarizing, giving coherence to the story. Reason remains his constant lodestone, a reason which forever sighs at the weight of misguided silliness which has constantly to be corrected but always concludes optimistically that sensible people will ultimately respond to rationality. The prison system (to cite only one among many examples) demonstrates the failure of the rationalist hopes to exercise the talking cure on people with power. Those who say knowledge is power had power first.

For Weeks, the evils of essentialism have been incorporated in biology or biological thinking. But for the biologist, essentialism means something different from Weeks' theory. Ernst Mayr's *Growth of Biological Thought* (1982) includes Plato, Galileo and Descartes as essentialists: "Western thinking for more than two thousand years after Plato was dominated by essentialism. It was not until the nineteenth century that a new and different way of thinking about nature began to spread, so-called population thinking." Weeks mistakenly makes biology itself an essence when it has been a quite diversified and constantly changing study. For instance, what about all the new information about plant and animal reproduction which has been discovered in the last hundred years? Eggs, sperm, vitamins, statistics, genes, chromosomes, DNA, the clitoral orgasm, artificial insemination — all have a history, a sociology. Biologists are no more inclined to essentialism than sociologists or historians.

deconstructed by A. O. Lovejoy, *Essays in the History of Ideas* (1948); the word certainly means more than "excessive" or "false." "Utopian" likewise tags error: libertarians (p. 55); Marcuse, who reaches "a more utopian conclusion than either Reich or Fromm (or Freud)" (p. 165); and paedophiles (p. 225). Unlike "excess," "romance," or "sexual," the idea of utopia does have beneficent forms as identified by a heterosexual male Marxist, Raymond Williams, with whom Weeks concludes his study: "systematic" and "heuristic" utopia are good. Even with a dictionary, I would not trust my future or my ass to such dull jargon.

While Weeks has lost most of his Marxist hopes, he has retained the Marxist contempt and misrepresentation of anarchist ideas. Subliminally he agrees with right-wingers about the dangers of going against society. Thus he quotes Mary Whitehouse's denunciation of sexual anarchy as "the forerunner of political anarchy. Political anarchy is the precursor of either dictatorship or destruction" (p. 34). Rousseau, deSade, Fourier, Walt Whitman, Frances Wright, Owenites, Victoria Woodhull, Edward Carpenter, Emma Goldman, Rene Guyon, Remy De Gourmont, Margaret Sanger and others all approached the question of sexuality outside the confines of Marxism and outside the confines of academic jargon. They made errors, but a book on *Sexuality and its Discontents*, which ignores their anti-state ideas leaves much to be desired.

Weeks contrasts his own "radical pluralist" position with "the absolutist, the liberal, and the libertarian approaches" (p. 53). I found little to distinguish "radical pluralist" from "libertarian" or "pluralism" from "radical pluralism." *Sexuality and its Discontents* takes its title from Freud's *Civilization and its Discontents*; the turnaround suggests that Weeks is not discontented with civilization but with sex, whose dispersal he equates with maturity. After his critique of essentialists, Weeks himself fall into a biologism denouncing youth in favor of age: "There is a new sexual democracy struggling to be born and if its gestation seems over long, with a number of unforeseen complications, there is every indication that the neonate can still grow into a vigorous, healthy maturity" (p. 243).

Jeffrey Weeks has written several books which retread previous works; *Sexuality and its Discontents: Meanings, Myths & Modern Sexualities* has been redone in a smaller, economy package also titled *Sexuality* but without the subtitles. *Sexuality* does what the English have always done well: condense great bodies of research into short, readable but not superficial volumes. In this guise Weeks emerges more clearly in his persona as a teacher as he acknowledges, "My greatest debt is to my students, whose questions, doubts, anxieties and stimulation have forced me to think through many of the issues I tackle here." As a teacher he must always sound judicious, must prove himself a competent judge of vast bodies of literature; his humor must be of the Mr. Chips never the Quentin Crisp variety. And the students demand that their instructor be trustworthy; in particular heterosexual students demand that nothing ever be said which would exclude them. The editor's forward clarifies what I find most alarming in Weeks' enterprise: "the way in which what was a slightly 'marginal' academic interest has come to full respectability." Liberation has been abandoned in favor of acceptance and respectability.

## Sexuality and its Discontents: Meanings, Myths & Modern Sexualities

Jeffrey Weeks  
Routledge & Keegan Paul, London, 1985  
\$13.95 paperback, 324 pp.

## Sexuality

Jeffrey Weeks  
Methuen, New York, 1986  
\$7.50 paperback, 127 pp.

Reviewed by Charley Shively

Jeffrey Weeks' *Sexuality and its Discontents: Meanings, Myths & Modern Sexualities* provides a textbook of social ideologies about sex. The book offers a semester program of provocative issues: "sexual revolution"; the new moralism (remarkably similar to the old one); sexology; anthropology; sociobiology; Freudianism (conservative and radical); Lacanism; "Movements of affirmation"; and "The Meaning of Diversity," i.e. the hot topics of public sex, man-boy love, pornography, s-m and the "sexual fringe." "By linking our present discontents to a clear understanding of the past and a realistic hope for



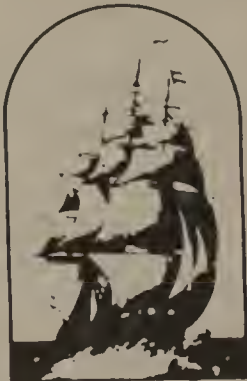
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# Primaries

Continued from page 1

with McFadden's name on them which they could use in the voting booth as a legitimate vote for McFadden.

In order for such a campaign to be viable, said Cook, groups that endorsed McFadden but did not see his election as their top priority would have to become more involved. He cited as examples the Black Political Task Force, the Rainbow Coalition, the Randolph Teachers Association and the newly formed Hispanic Political Coalition. In addition, said Cook, the campaign would have to wage a "high powered voter registration drive."

McFadden is attempting to oust 14-year incumbent Walsh, who has made virulent attacks against lesbians and gay men on the Senate floor.

Cook said he is not demoralized with the defeat. "We started with a candidate who is unknown and never run before, who did not have a big financial basis, and was gay in a large mixed district," he said. "The gay issue was open all the time. It took guts for Kevin to run as a gay candidate in Dorchester."

## The Race for Boston Sheriff

Although City Councillor

Albert "Dapper" O'Neil, famed for his tirades against lesbians, gay men and people of color, was a frontrunner early in the race, his lead quickly diminished.

Beating O'Neil with a little less than a comfortable margin was Robert Rufo, a special sheriff under outgoing Sheriff Dennis Kearney. Rufo had 47 percent of the votes compared to O'Neil's 39 percent.

Rufo, who developed a campaign image as a professional administrator, was in sharp contrast to O'Neil who during a campaign speech pledged to deputize a group of gun owners. In the last weeks of the campaign, O'Neil also endorsed the politics of a white supremacist group only retracting his endorsement after substantial adverse publicity.

## First Woman to Hold Statewide Office?

Evelyn Murphy, former environmental affairs secretary and economic affairs secretary under Governor Michael Dukakis, is likely to be the first woman to hold



Ellen Shub

Kevin McFadden, after loss to Walsh, Sept. 16

statewide office in Massachusetts.

Murphy, who lost the same bid four years ago, was considered the frontrunner over state Senator Gerard D'Amico (D-Worcester.)

## A Progressive Defeat

A political unknown until this

election, Jo Ann Shotwell was enthusiastically sponsored by a number of progressive and environmental groups, including the Boston Gay and Lesbian Political Alliance, the Black Political Task Force and Mass Fair Share. How-

ever, she lost to former Congressperson James Shannon by more than a two to one margin.

October 7 is the last day to register to vote in the November 4 elections.

# Bronski Beat

Continued from page 7

Heart" are probably the two best songs on the album, with optimistic, stick-to-it messages which should be very helpful to the band's young gay fans. If there is any justice in this world, and here I'm talking about radio programming which is somewhat less just than, say, the Supreme Court, *Truthdare Doubledare* will earn the new, improved Bronski Beat scores of new fans. They deserve it and we deserve to have an openly gay pop group be hugely popular in our lifetimes.

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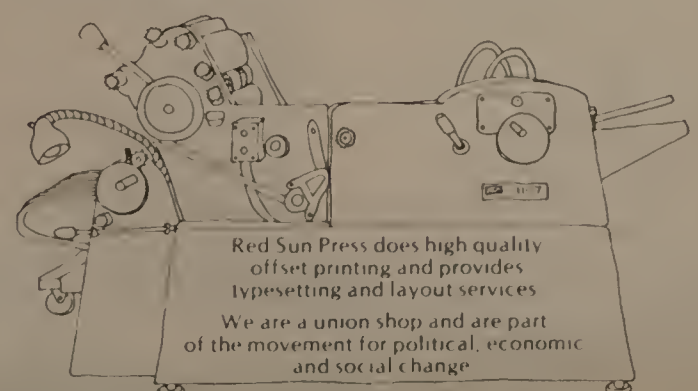
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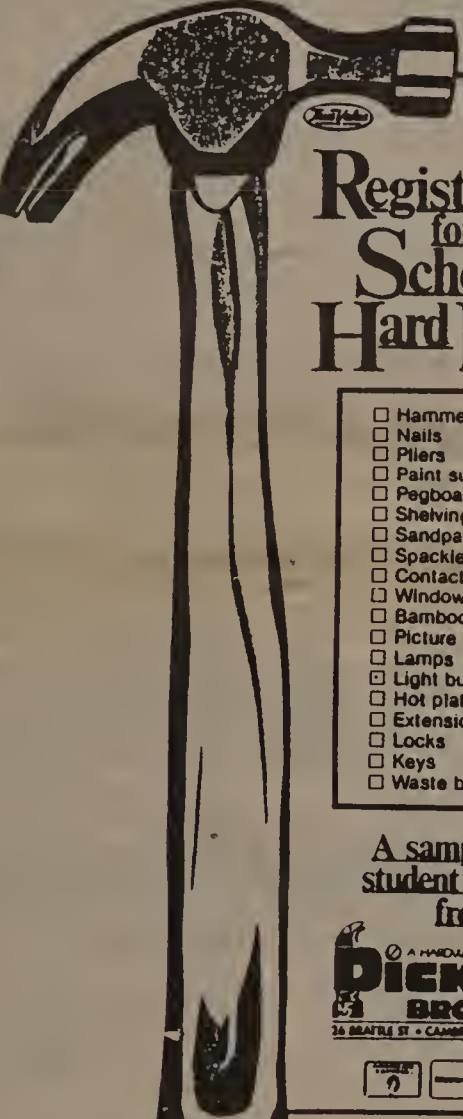
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
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NEW YORK — Fritz, the Beantown Softball League representative to the Gay Softball World Series, "Liberty Series '86," placed seventh among 20 teams participating in the week-long event, August 24-30. The double-elimination tournament took place in Central Park and included roughly 500 players from the U.S. and Toronto, Canada, with 1,000-1,500 spectators in attendance at the opening and closing events.



Lee Snider/Photo Images



Lee Snider/Photo Images

The Los Angeles Slammers took the series title with an 8-1 win over the Dallas Patrick's. The third place team, San Francisco's Pendulum, was closed out of the competition in a 5-4 loss to Dallas. San Francisco will host the '87 series.

The Gay Veterans Association, pictured above, formed colorguard for the opening event. The Liberty Series was organized by the National Association of Gay Amateur Athletics and the Big Apple Softball League, and was sponsored by the Miller Brewing Corporation.

For more information on gay softball in Boston, call the Beantown Softball League at 267-0328 (for co-ed and all-male teams) or the Sunday Night Women's Softball League at 576-6788 or 437-1257.

— Loie Hayes

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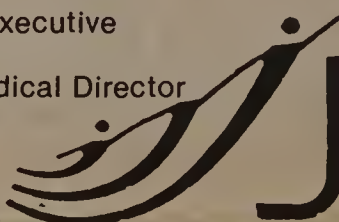
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## ORGANIZATIONS

### THE HALLOWEEN PARTY GIRTH & MIRTH'S FIRST!

Don't miss the fabulous first annual Girth & Mirth Fri. Oct 17th, in Boston. If you are chubby, husky, fat or like your men that way, this is for you! Prizes, fab food, fun, great times. For info call 566-6530 or write G & M of New England P.O. Box 945, Allston, MA 02134 or call 757-5432. (13)

### D.O.B

Support organization for leabians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+ parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (V13.35)

### BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V14.15)

### LESBIANS

Are you lesbian, Bisexual or unsure?  
Looking for a group to go to?  
Come join us at BAGLY.  
Call Tony, 497-8282

### PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL

Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (14.9)

### GAY, LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, potluck dinners, discussions, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11, Cambridge, MA 02238. (V14.35)

### MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones St. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (V14.23)

### CONCORD MEN'S GROUP

A support group in Central N.H. for Gay and Bi-sexual men on Fri. at 7:30 pm. For more info, call Gay Info-line of N.H. at (603) 753-9533. (V14.18)



### MORE AND MORE RACIST 'JUSTICE'

In 1940 10 percent of the people were Black and 30 percent of the prisoners were Black. In 1974 11.4 percent of the people were Black and 47 percent of the prisoners were Black.

**BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER:** Is an interracial, intercultural gay men's organization with over 30 chapters. They provide social, political, and educational programs. For more info write: IA-BWMT, 584 Castro St., San Francisco CA 94114.



**NOTE TO PRISONERS:** If someone on the outside doesn't write you again after seeming to become your penpal, it may not be because they're thoughtless or rude. They may have fallen in love (temporary insanity) or lost your address (give them one more chance, if you've got the spare postage ...). Patience (with these people on the outside who often think the only kind of "ripoffs" involve money, who never see their stopping writing as a sort of ripoff).

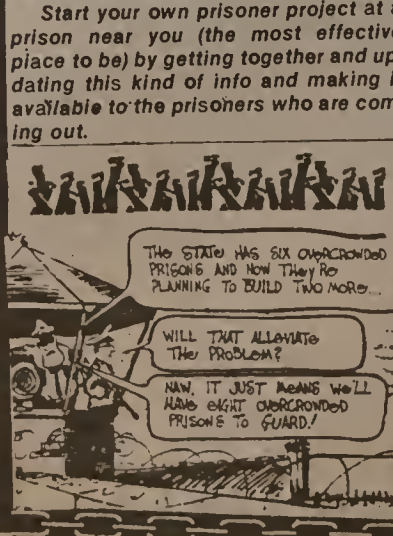
### PRISONER WATCH!

Prisoners (& outsiders), if you have a good experience with some group, publication, individual lawyers, etc. as far as prisoner support (while inside or on coming out), please let us know so we can pass the info on to others who need it. THANKS!



### ON 'COMING OUT'

One sure way to make it hard for prisoners coming out of prison to make it on the outside is to keep them from getting jobs and housing. This is just what this society does with its attitudes toward ex-prisoners. Don't be surprised if a penpal asks for some help in finding work or a place to live. Their getting out on parole this year, rather than next, may depend on finding these (or a 'sponsor'), and their staying out will certainly depend on it. The GCN Prisoner Project is always looking for info on jobs and housing resources in all regions of the country. Start your own prisoner project at a prison near you (the most effective place to be) by getting together and updating this kind of info and making it available to the prisoners who are coming out.



# Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist.



### INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION FOR GAY AND LESBIAN PRISONERS!

The Int. Lesbian & Gay Assoc. now has an active 'Homosexual Prisoners Project' which would like to gather information about how they can organize to help lesbian and gay prisoners.

PLEASE, prisoners, let's make our needs known. Feeling 'forgotten' comes partly from outsiders not remembering that prisoners exist. LET'S REMIND THEM! Send letters about what kind of help (legal, medical, social, vocational, coming out, etc etc) you need to them at: HPP c/o GCN, 167 Tremont, Boston, MA 02111. We'll forward your letters to them. DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR NEEDS KNOWN!!! (On the other hand, don't expect miracles from them as far as getting results soon either. First they need to be educated by you about how the prison-business works against gay prisoners. Let's think of ourselves as trying to make life better for future gay & lesbian prisoners. They're our 'children' in a way...)

### FAG RAG COMES OUT (SOON)

(We hope). Some time this fall we'll put out our ONCE-A-YEAR (!) issue. If you can get SEXUALLY EXPLICIT (!!!) material and want a FR, let me know. Please don't ask if you're not pretty sure, because we are even poorer than GCN and can't afford to waste postage. Thanx!



Due to be released in June 87. Wish to correspond and start long term relationship with 'pre-op' TS. Have lots of love to share. Write James STONE, Boxn100, Somers CT 06071.

### LEGAL HELP (and penpal)!!

My interests are skiing, playing chess, and bodybuilding. I would really appreciate a penpal. Also my case was clearly prejudiced and although I'm studying the law as much as possible, I could sure use some legal advice. Please write Troy DACE, Box 911, Sioux Falls, SD 57117.

This lonely guy would like to become friends and even possibly more if you want to. (Thanks GCN for the gay reading material & the dictionary! Any time you want to send more, you're welcome!!) Kim MARK, 206094, Box 316, Ft. Madison IA 52627.

WARREN MARCHIALETTE looking for friends who have information about his case. Please contact him at Box B-46734, Florence AZ 85232.

I've been moved to a county jail temporarily and it's lonelier here than in the prison. Take a moment and send a gay brother a line. We may become friends, even! Thanks. Frank WADE, Box 1269, Monroe Cty Jail, Key West, FL 33040.

I'm seeking someone from the streets to start a meaningful relationship with. I am hoping to be out in 89 or somewhere after. Adrian PRICE, 35588, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043

Unattached (!) gay male seeking friendship. Interests varied. Always open to suggestions. I'm 30, compassionate, with an unsatiable appreciation for mutual sharing. Please write Lacey, 168-258, Box 57, Marion OH 43302

I'm a very loving and understanding person. I'm a black gay man, light skin, brown eyes. I'm very emotional. I love to cook. I dislike anyone who is ashamed of being gay or lesbian. I like people who hold their head up and are proud to be gay or lesbian. Please send a picture if you can. Not allowed to write other prisoners. Thank you. William JENKINS, 180-430, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Full blooded Irish prisoner, dark wavy brown hair, bisexual, interested in writing a bisexual or straight homosexual person, male or female or even a little of both. I'm currently locked away in a prison cage, a real bummer but yet true. I can't promise much but I promise I'll answer all mature letters. Michael Patrick GAVIN, 01839-045, Box 1000, Marion IL 62959.



The freaks come out at night, but I have some hard time to do yet. I'm attractive, sensitive and looking for a for real woman to correspond with. 6' aggressive blonde out of the closet for 20 years. Write and you'll never regret it. Photo appreciated. Helen WILLIAMS, 853627, IWP-IDOC, 401 N. Randolph, Indianapolis IN 46201

Black woman with pretty green eyes going home soon. Hope to meet some free world people and start my life anew. I'm an LPN, very outgoing, intelligent and committed person. June LOVER, Box 1, Goochland VA 23063



**NOTICE FROM A LESBIAN PRISONER** to the Captain's office: "Please File or Post This Notice" *It be's just a reminder for those so blind not to see that my eyes will forever shine!*

Your so-called 'authority' is my power trips of laughter, your actions of ignorance are your games of destruction, that do not disrupt my well being because my pride shall continue to wash you all away like a rainstorm. Your bars or stripes are nothing more than a cloned-out figure of IDIOCY GALORE. The badges and blues are a majority of fools to carry out your assinine rules! This movement may pass but meanwhile isn't it too bad for all you screws that haven't got the correct amount of tools to break me in to your average uncool! Your city of dense heads are indeed my daily jokes and it makes my day when I flush away your wasted ink on that pretty pink paper! HA! Smile and have a great day!

G.S. (a free prisoner)



— **WOMEN IN PRISON SUPPORT** — Through The Looking Glass is a support network and newsletter for women in prison. They come out 4 times a year and are free to women in prison and psychiatric prisons. Write them with your letters, articles, poems, and requests for subscriptions at: TTLG, Box 22061, Seattle WA 98122. [PS: They also would like to connect with women in Mass. who are supporting women at Framingham. Drop them a line.]

31 yr old Black bi-sexual woman seeks correspondence with others who are sincere and seek honest communication as I do. My interests are too many to go into here. I am a Dreamer. Let's share ours together! Brenda HALL, Box 1 — VCCW, Goochland VA 23063.

Loneliness is one of the worst feelings to experience. I have much to share in friendship. Please write Gwen THOMPSON, PO Box 1, Goochland VA 23063.



Tall, sweet, sassy, sexy, pre-op (m-f) TS lesbian, 32, of French-Italian descent, desperately in need of employment and place to call home. Eligible for parole Jan 87. Able and willing to go out of state. Please help this lady. Roberta (Bunny) BARRETT, 76C 197, 135 State St., Auburn NY 13024.

M—F TS needs legal aid I need some legal help to file a civil rights/sexual harassment suit against some guards here. Also need some info on hormones and electrolysis. If you can help please write Deedee GODFREY, 909602, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

I do art work (drawings), weightlifting, and some sports. Believe me it's a lonely business here. A friend on the outside (no games) would be great. Kenny OWENS, 53310-146, H-unit, Box 1000, Marion IL 62959.

Hello. I can receive mail from other institutions, love oral and anal sex and spicy foods. have a release date of 11/97, love photography (and photographs! but can't receive polaroids), and camping. Please write. Charles P. DUNN, 287584, B-25 wing, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362



Anyone knowing the location of DAVID TECHTER, formerly of Lincoln Park IL, please contact me. Ray Latham, Box 700, Jessup MD 20794.



# CALENDAR

## September 20 to October 3

### 20 saturday

**Boston — Public reception for staff & board of NGLTF.** Club Cafe, Columbus Ave. 5:30-7:30PM. \$10-\$30. Info: (202) 332-6483.

**Boston — Amethyst Women Anniversary Dance.** Clarendon St. YWCA. 9PM-1AM. \$4 more if/less if. An alcohol & drug-free event for alcoholic lesbians & their women friends.

**Cambridge — "Holy Terror,"** presented by Angry Arts films. Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. \$3. Also showing on Sat. & Sun. Info: 625-9279.

### 21 sunday

**Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors Brunch** at Doyle's. Washington St. 11AM. Newcomers welcome.

**Salem, NH — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain day trip** to Mystery Hill. Carpooling can be arranged. \$4. Info: 522-6253.

**Cambridge — Lesbian Potluck** for friends & neighbors. 6-8PM. Info: 576-0723.

**Watertown — Monthly meeting** of GLOW. 7PM. Info: Rich/Kevin, 926-5371 or Deb, 924-6044.

**Jamaica Plain — Disabled Lesbians** discussion & potluck. 1-3PM. Wheelchair accessible. Not signed. Info: 524-1890.

**Winthrop — Lesbian Beach Party** sponsored by Daughters of Bilitis. 11AM. Info: Mimi, 846-9117.



Batucada Belles, September 23

### 22 monday

**Cambridge — Bereavement Group** for Lesbians & Gay Men, sponsored by Hospice of Cambridge. Schedule negotiable. 35 Bigelow St. Info: 489-3806.

**Boston — Molly Ruggles Trio** in concert. Studio Red Top at Villa Victoria Cultural Center, 85 W. Newton St., corner of Tremont St., South End. 7:30. \$6. Info: 492-8436.

**Boston — Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** hotline volunteer training. Seven-week intensive training. No experience necessary. Info: 492-RAPE.

### 23 tuesday

**Haverhill — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance coming out** discussion group. Northern Essex Community College. Info: 745-3848.

**Cambridge — Batucada Belles**, a women's carnival band, seeks new members. 595 Mass. Ave. 7PM. No experience necessary. Sliding scale membership fee. Info: Buffy or Marsha, 776-6699.

**Cambridge — Kate Rushin** hosts discussion on **child abuse** in day care centers. 7-8PM. "Say It Sister," WMBR 88.1 FM.

**Boston — Gay & Lesbian Defense Committee** plans Fall events. 7:30PM. New members welcome. Info: 542-3622.

**Waltham — Battered Women's support volunteer training** introductory meeting. Info: 891-0724.

### 24 wednesday

**Cambridge — Boston Bisexual Men's Network**, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, basement, 1150 Mass. Ave. 7:30PM.

**Boston — "To Live with Dignity—Creating a Nicaraguan Constitution,"** a forum. Northeastern Univ., 360 Huntington Ave., Richards Hall, Room 200. 7:30PM. \$3. Info: 492-8699 or 227-7335.

**Boston — "Still Life with Steyn,"** performed by Laura Sheppard. 15 West St. 7:30PM. \$10 for show, wine & hors d'oeuvres; \$40 for full dinner. Info: 338-4600.

### 25 thursday

**Boston — GCN's production night.** All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 8PM-on. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

**Cambridge — Marita Golden** reads from her new novel *A Women's Place*. New Words, 186 Hampshire St. 7:30PM. Free. Info: 876-5310.

**Boston — Triangle Theater** presents "The Flames," a new musical by Jeff Black & John Michael Barret. Paramount Penthouse Theater, 58 Berkeley St., South End. \$10. Playing through Oct. 18. Info: 353-0434.

**Springfield — Western Mass Parents & Friends of Lesbian & Gay Children.** YWCA, 137 Chestnut St. 7:30PM. All welcome. Info: 732-0677.

**Boston — Gays at MIT ice cream social.** GAMIT lounge. 8PM. Info: 253-5440.

### 26 friday

**Boston — GCN's volunteer night:** all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

**Somerville — Bright Morning Star and Tom Wilson Weinberg** in concert to benefit GCN. Somerville Theater, Davis Sq. 8PM. \$7.50 advance, \$9 at door, more/less. Info: 426-4469.

**Brookline — Am Tikva Shabbat services** and Oneg. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St., between Cleveland Circle and Washington Sq. 8PM. Info: 782-8894.

**Cambridge — Northern Harmony**, a folk chorus, auditions for all voices. Info: 648-7231.

**Boston — "Between Women: Class, Race & Gender in Domestic/Employer Relationships."** Boston Univ. Marsh Chapel, 735 Comm. Ave. Info: 277-1330.

**Worcester — Take Back the Night** march/rally. Crystal Park. 6:30PM. Sponsored by WEAVE.

**Randolph — First Annual Harvest Moon Dance.** Randolph Country Club. \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Info: Carole, 396-1039 (4-9PM).

### 27 saturday

**Cambridge — Lesbian Dance.** Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8-12PM. \$5. Alcohol-free, not wheelchair accessible. Childcare: Jean, 277-8150. Info: 661-3633.

**Boston — The Ionian Society**, a group for gay & lesbian people of Greek heritage, business meeting. 7PM. Post-meeting: Greek Festival. Info: 625-3177.



Tom Wilson Weinberg, September 26

**Cambridge — The Dancing Wheel**, a creative approach to **astrology**, a workshop for women with H. Horgan. 10AM-3PM. \$25. Info: 354-0553.

**Boston — "Joe Turner's Come and Gone,"** by August Wilson. Huntington Theater, 264 Huntington Ave. 8PM. \$10-\$24.50. Plays through Oct. 19. Info: 266-3913.

### 28 sunday

**Brookline — Brookline/Brighton/Allston Lesbians potluck dinner.** 6PM. Info: 787-2338 or 566-2558.

**Cambridge — Judith Stein**, contributor to *Hear the Silence: Stories by Women of Myth, Magic & Renewal*, reads her work. New Words, 186 Hampshire St. 3-5PM. Free. Info: 876-5310.

**Cambridge — Cambridge GALA potluck.** 6PM. Info: Robin or Laura, 354-6237 or David, 497-6197.

**Boston — Rock Against Sexism Tea Dance** with locally-produced videos. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. Videos: 6PM. Dance 6-10PM. \$2. Info: 739-6566.

**Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & Gay Neighbors apple picking** and picnic. Leave 10AM. Info: 522-9505.

**Boston — Staged reading** of "The Unveiling," by Jonathan Tolins. New Ehrlich Theater, 539 Tremont St. 7PM. \$2. Info: 482-6316.

### 30 tuesday

**Cambridge — "Understanding AIDS,"** a lecture by Chris Jennings. Cambridge Center for Adult Ed., 56 Brattle St. 8:15PM. \$1.50. Info: 547-6789.

**Boston — Anniversary Celebration** for *Bay Windows* with **Sharon McKnight** to benefit the AIDS Action Committee. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 7PM, dinner and show, \$45. 11PM, show only, \$15. Info: 536-0966.

**Boston — "Say It Sister"** news magazine with Madge Kaplan & Tatiana Schreiber. 7-8PM. WMBR 88.1 FM.

**North Shore — NSGLA potluck & discussion:** financial & legal issues. Info: 745-3848.

### october 1 wednesday

**Cambridge — Janet Hood & Susan Farley** in concert. Upstairs at Ryles, Inman Sq. 8:30PM. \$4 cover.

**Bridgewater — South Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance social.** Info: 293-5183 or SSGLA, Box 712, Bridgewater 02324.

### 2 thursday

**Cambridge — Carole Maso** reads from her novel, *Ghost Dance*. New Words. 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 7:30PM. Free. Info: 876-5310.

### 3 friday

**Boston — Am Tikva Rosh Hashanah** services. Boston YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 8PM. Members, \$10, Non-members, \$12. Info: 782-8894.

### Long Range Forecasts

Any preview of upcoming gay and feminist performances in Boston would have to include Triangle Theater's production of *The Flames*, a musical by Jeff Black, John Michael Barrett and Cheryl Hoenemeyer. David Hough will direct this eighth season opener. Performances will take place from September 25 to October 18 at the Paramount Penthouse Theater, 58 Berkeley St. Tickets are \$10.

The Institute of Contemporary Art has booked feminist performance artist Kathy Acker for a reading from "Don Quixote (which was a dream)" on October 17. The ICA is also running videos by Laurie Anderson (What You Mean We?) and Joan Braderman ("Joan Does Dynasty") as part of their daily video presentation from September 25 to November 30.

German gay filmmaker Rosa Von Praunheim will be in Boston October 29 to open the ICA's retrospective of his work. Beginning with *Horror Vacui*, which shocked audiences at the 1985 New York Gay Film Festival, the series will include, among others, *Red Love* ("hilarious attack on monogamy") and *City of Lost Souls* ("transsexuals, acrobats, rock singers, gays and dancers living in Berlin.")

Though still some months distant, you might want to mark your calendars now for Judy Grahn's January 17 Boston appearance. Grahn's poetry collection *The Work of a Common Woman* is a classic and her *Gay Words*, *Gay Worlds* has delighted readers with its radical recounting of queer history. Her talk, sponsored by the Women's Theological Center, will take place at Old South Church.

--Loie Hayes

**Blue Velvet.** Directed by David Lynch. With Kyle MacLachlan, Isabella Rossellini, Dennis Hopper and Laura Dern. At the Nickelodeon, Boston.

Sex and Hollywood movies are usually thought to be synonymous. The problem is that the sexuality of the Silver Screen is hardly ever honest. Sometimes the more explicit the sexual activity, the more removed it is from any authentic sexual feeling. Hollywood would rather titillate than make us feel.

*Blue Velvet*, a new film by David Lynch, has every intention of forcing us to grapple with primal sexual emotions, in this case in an almost entirely heterosexual context. Ostensibly a mystery with noir overtones — there are drugs, a sadistic killer and a mysterious cabaret singer — the true content of the film is the dichotomy between a storybook world many would like to believe in and a darker, violent domain of desire and deception.

The film's power comes from the spider's web, nightmare quality Lynch gives to the sexual encounters and the emotions surrounding them. Although less physically graphic than other films, this sex has real feeling. There is nothing "nice" here: sex is appalling, exciting, terrifying and dangerous. Yet although the film is filled with sexual violence, it is not gratuitous — which in many ways makes it even harder to sit through.

*Blue Velvet* is not perfect. Lynch is so good with visuals — he did *Dune* and *Eraserhead* — that he loses track of his story. And because the movie is so intent on schematizing the world into two groups — the facile and the corrupt — it could be read as anti-sexual.

Few films deal with sexuality and sexual feelings in anything other than an exploitative or casual manner. *Blue Velvet* is not easy viewing; it's upsetting, ugly and sometimes repulsive. But it's also a movie that wants us to feel something about sex and goes straight for the gut.

— Michael Bronski

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

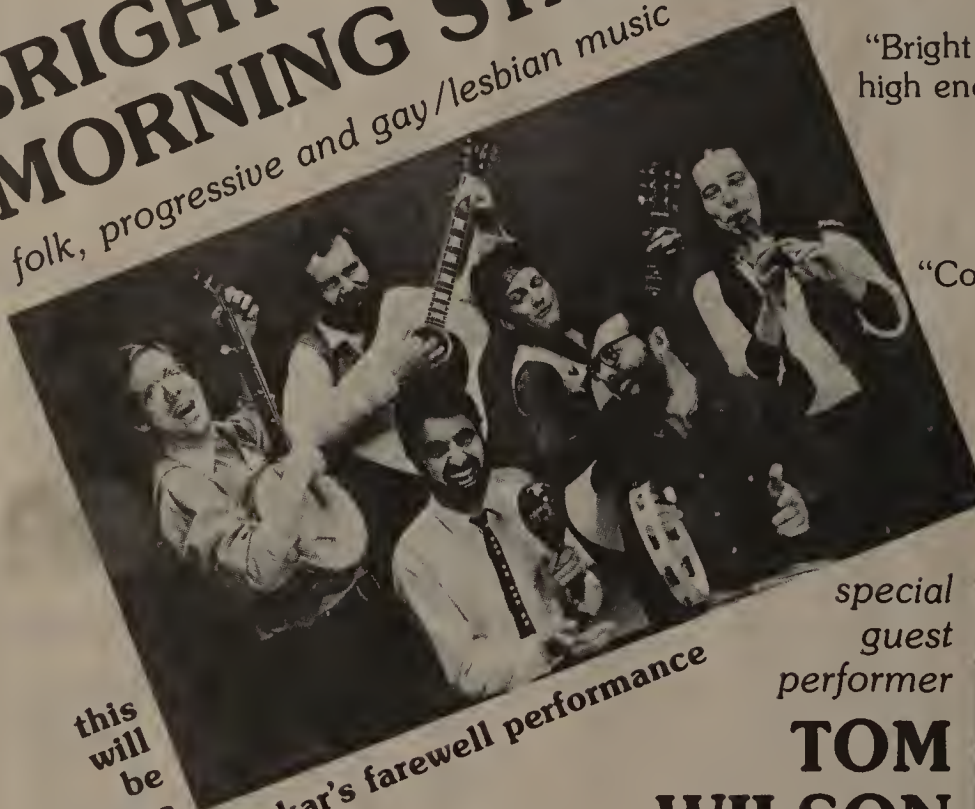
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for more information call GCN: 426-4469

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